gas resources as well as technology in the related sector. Since 1.1.2005, high level engagements have taken place at various levels between representatives of Ministry of P&NG and their counterparts of a number of countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iran, Romania, Turkey, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Norway, Venezuela, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Angola, Gabon, Algeria, Libya, UAE, Japan, China, Australia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Brazil, Turkmenistan and EU. The result of these interactions have been set out in Joint Press Statements, Agreed Minutes of meetings and exchanges of letters.

This extensive international engagements has led to the identification of specific projects/proposals with Indian organizations as active partners. They have covered the following areas:—

(i) investments and joint ventures in the petroleum sector across the hydrocarbon value chain of India, host countries and third countries;

(ii) cooperation in research and development, transfer of technology and training in the upstream, downstream and natural gas sectors;

(iii) construction of trans-national oil and gas pipelines; and

(iv) achieving energy security by securing long term supplies of natural gas and petroleum products.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Co-operation with Turkey in oil sector

†203. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to extend co-operation with Turkey in the field of oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of benefits in economic and employment generation sectors that are likely to be achieved by the same?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During his recent tour to Turkey between 28-30 June 2005, the Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas had extensive discussions with Turkish authorities. The two sides have agreed to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) to promote cooperation in the oil and gas sector. The specific areas of cooperation to be pursued by the two sides are:

(i) The oil companies of both countries would cooperate in pursuing E&P contracts in each other's countries and in third countries. Turkish companies would play a lead role when partnering Indian companies in projects in Central Asia while Indian companies would take the lead role in proposals elsewhere.

(ii) IOC, for its part, has submitted a bid for a 51% stake in Tupras the Turkish oil refining company. An invitation has been extended to Turkish companies to invest in up-coming refinery projects in India.

(iii) An invitation has been extended to Indian companies to associate themselves with Turkish companies in the various oil and gas pipeline proposals to bring Central Asian oil and gas resources to Europe across Turkey.

(iv) Indian companies have been invited to participate in the city gas distribution proposals being pursued in Turkey.

(v) The cooperation of the Turkish authorities was sought in sharing their knowledge and experience with regard to the technical, financial, commercial and legal aspects of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Project.

The proposed cooperation with Turkey is expected to promote investments in India and enhancement of Indian - owned assets abroad, which would bring economic gains and generate employment in the coming years, besides substantially contributing to the nations' energy security.